

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

The specification has been amended on page 12, line 1, paragraph 26, to cancel “61” and insert --65--. Figure 5 of the drawing shows holes 58, 59, 60 and 65 in the bladder. The hose 61 connects the bladder with air pulsator 12. This amendment does not add new matter to this application.

A formal drawing of Figures 1 to 12, 6 sheets, have been made of record. The formal drawing overcomes the examiner’s objections to the informal drawing filed with this application. Each sheet of the drawing is labeled “REPLACEMENT SHEET”.

A terminal disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejections of Claims 1 to 37 and Claims 1 to 41 has been made of record along with the disclaimer fee of \$65. Applicants and applicants’ assignee are small entities. The terminal disclaimer overcomes the nonstatutory double patenting rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the flexible coil spring defined in dependant allowable Claim 9. The outer wall of the bladder is secured to the front panel of the cover. As shown in Figure 3, the outer wall 54 of the bladder is secured to the front panel 32 of the cover. The hole is in the inner wall of the bladder to allow air to flow out of the air chamber. Claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2 to 8 and 10 to 16 depend upon Claim 1. Claims 10, 12 and 14 have been amended to locate the holes in the inner wall of the bladder. Claim 13 has been amended to depend upon Claim 12. Applicants request that Claims 2 to 8 and 10 to 16 be allowed along with Claim 1.

Claim 7 has been cancelled without prejudice as the subject matter of Claim 7 has been incorporated into Claim 1.

Claim 17 has been amended to define the outer wall of the bladder as being secured to the inside surface of the front panel of the cover. The holes in the inner wall allow air to flow out of the air chamber. The amendments to Claim 17 overcome the informal terms noted by the examiner and the rejection of this claim under 35 USC 112. The formal allowance of Claim 17 is requested.

Claims 18 to 23, dependent upon Claim 17, further define the releasable fasteners, spaces and seals. Claim 23 has been amended to locate the holes in the inner wall of the bladder. The allowance of Claims 18 to 23 along with Claim 17 is requested.

Claim 24 has been amended to include the flexible coil spring extended along the length of the air receiving passage to allow air to flow in said passage and through the openings into the air chamber as defined in the allowable dependent Claim 28. The air flows out of the air chamber through a hole in one of the walls of the bladder. The claim overcomes the informal terms noted by the examiner. The allowance of Claim 24 is requested.

Claims 25 to 27 and 29 to 35 depend on Claim 24. These claims more particularly define the seals, spaces, and holes in the inner wall of the bladder. Applicants request the allowance of Claims 25 to 27 and 29 to 35 along with Claim 24.

Claim 28 has been cancelled without prejudice as the subject matter of this claim has been incorporated into Claim 24.

The allowable bladder defined in Claims 36 to 41 is noted and appreciated. Claims 39 and 41 have been amended to include holes in the inner wall of the bladder to allow air to flow out of the air chamber. Claims 37 to 41 depend upon Claim 36. These claims further define the spaces, holes and seals of the bladder. The allowance of Claims 36 to 41 is requested.

The prior art of record has been reviewed. The claims have been amended to define the allowable vest and bladder claims. The rejections of the claims are not applicable to the

amended claims. The teachings of the prior art do not include applicants' vest and bladder having open members comprising flexible coil springs or similar structures that allow air to flow in passages. A summary of the prior art is included in the Background of the Invention and the following U.S. patents of record.

Lobo '258 discloses an artificial respiration apparatus having a breastplate and backplate surrounding front and back chambers 14. Each chamber has an opening to allow air to flow into and out of the chamber to inflate and deflate the chamber. A pump or bellows work synchronously with the person's respiratory rhythm to attain artificial respiration. Each chamber 14 has only one air opening. The air in chambers 14 does not continuously flow out of the chambers 14 during the pulsing of air in the chambers. Also, there is no disclosure of an open member, such as a flexible coil spring in chambers 14 to keep a passage open so that air can flow through the passage.

Providing the chambers 14 with pressure release valves, as shown by *Akerman et al* at 25 in Figure 1, will only allow air to flow out of the chambers 14 when the air pressure in the chambers exceeds a selected limit.

Siple '325 discloses a body warming jacket having lateral passages 25 and 26. Warm air flows downward through passages 19 and check valves 30 into passages 25 and 26. The air bags 31 are heated with self-contained heaters 35, such as chemical heaters. The passages 19, 25 and 26 do not contain open members, such as flexible coil springs to keep the passages open to allow air to flow through the passages.

Nathans et al '375 discloses a mat having passages 7, 9, 11 and 13 to allow water to flow through the mat to cool a person resting on the mat. The mat does not have holes to allow water to flow out of the passages. Water flows through inlet nipple 3 into passage 7 and flows out of passage 13 through drainage nozzle 5. There is no open members, such as flexible coil springs,

to keep the passages open to allow water to flow through the passages.

Augustine '489 discloses a thermal blanket having a plurality of apertures for directing warm air to a person. There is no disclosure of an open member, such as a flexible coil spring, in an air inlet passage to keep a passage open so that air can flow through the passage.

Augustine '796 discloses a blanket used with a clinical garment for thermally comforting a patient. The blanket has a distribution region for distributing pressurized air to the patient. There is no disclosure of an open member, such as flexible coil spring, in an air passage to keep the passage open to allow air to flow through the passage.

Villari et al '312 discloses an elongated sleeve having a plurality of fluid pressure chambers and passages connected to the chambers for directing fluid to and from the chambers. There is no disclosure of openings to allow the fluid to flow out of the chambers and open members, such as flexible coil springs, in the passages to keep the passages open.

In view of the amended claims and above remarks, applicants request allowance of Claims 1 to 8, 10 to 27 and 29 to 41.

Respectfully submitted,

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November 6, 2006

Date of Signature